

Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, and an Air Medal with Valor and the Combat Action Badge. It is clear that Sergeant Goare was an excellent soldier and a remarkable citizen. His devotion to his country is an inspiration to us all.

His sacrifice is a testament to his devotion to our great land, and his heroic efforts must never be forgotten. I extend my deepest condolences to his parents and other family and friends. It is an honor to pay tribute to Sergeant Goare's life, contributions, and dedication as an American. May God rest his soul.

AUCTIONING OFF THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, the New York Times reports that during the Vioxx trial in Texas, a cardiologist testified that the pain killer likely led to the needless death of Robert Ernst. Mr. Ernst was a produce manager at Wal-Mart who also ran marathons and worked as a personal trainer.

He took Vioxx for 8 months before he died of an irregular heartbeat, making him one of the 55,000 people who needlessly died as a result of taking Vioxx.

As we debate medical malpractice legislation tomorrow, I hope my colleagues will keep Mr. Ernst's tragedy in mind. Only in this Congress would we consider legislation that specifically protects the drug manufacturers like Merck from any form of liability while a trial is presently ongoing that directly affects that legislation. I am not aware of any other industry that gets this type of liability protection just for going through a governmental approval process.

While families such as Mr. Ernst's fight for fairness in court, this body, the people's House, is fighting to protect the drug companies. I plan to introduce the Vioxx amendment striking this blatantly beneficial provision written for and by the pharmaceutical industry.

Mr. Speaker, when your gavel opens up the people's House, it should open up the people's House and their voices should be heard, not the auction house.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Small Business Health Fairness Act. We will vote on it later today.

We need to increase access and lower the cost of health insurance for small business owners, their employees, and their families.

I represent New York's Hudson Valley where small business owners and

self-employed workers tell me time and time again that the toughest challenge they face is finding affordable health care coverage.

Seven out of 10 small businesses do not offer health insurance because they cannot afford the overwhelming costs on their own in the private market.

The Small Business Fairness Act would provide them with the lower costs they need by giving them the same group health insurance purchasing power already being enjoyed by unions and large corporations.

Small businesses on Main Street in towns like Warwick, Goshen, Wappinger, or Mount Kisco deserve the same health insurance advantages that the large firms have on Wall Street. Let us give our small businesses the option by passing this bill.

Studies show it will give 8 million currently uninsured small business workers the affordable access to health insurance they need. Please support America's small businesses and join me in voting for the Small Business Health Fairness Act.

CAFTA HURTS CANDY MAKERS

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Chicago used to be known as the Candy Capital of the World. Unfortunately, sugar makers, food processors, and other sugar users have been driven out of the city by high prices.

Despite all of my other misgivings, I had hoped that CAFTA would provide us with some relief. But, unfortunately, to let in only 151,000 metric tons of sugar from CAFTA countries over a 15-year period will not put a dent in sugar prices. It will not help the candy makers and food processors in Chicago. Therefore, I shall vote against CAFTA and urge all of my colleagues to vote likewise.

HONORING THE CREW, SCIENTISTS, AND TECHNICIANS OF THE "DISCOVERY"

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, in just a few moments the Space Shuttle *Discovery* is due to lift off from its pad in Florida. Last year, Mr. Speaker, I was a member of the House Committee on Science; and in that role I want to acknowledge the wonderful work of the scientists and technicians and the crew of the *Discovery* who uphold the great tradition of our space program.

Barely 1 month into my first term in the 108th Congress, we lost the Space Shuttle *Columbia* over Texas. We felt the concussion from that blast in my north Texas district.

Mr. Speaker, the return to flight was pursued in a careful, methodical fash-

ion with a mission of strict adherence to safety. On momentous occasions like today, we remember those who sacrificed their lives, and we honor them by continuing America's quest to observe and learn from our galaxy and universe. May God guard those members while they lift off from Florida and see them safely home.

NO STRAIGHT ANSWERS FROM BUSH WHITE HOUSE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, for 2 years now the Bush White House has covered up its involvement in the leaking of a CIA agent's identity. Now it appears members of the administration are also misleading a grand jury investigating whether or not any laws were broken when Karl Rove, Scooter Libby, and possibly others leaked Valerie Plame's identity to reporters.

According to reports over the weekend, CHENEY's chief of staff, Scooter Libby, told the grand jury that he first heard about Valerie Plame's identity from NBC's Tim Russert, but Russert claims that that was impossible since he did not even know Plame was a CIA agent.

In the meantime, Karl Rove told the grand jury that his conversation with Time magazine's Matt Cooper was mostly about welfare reform until Rove leaked Valerie Plame's identity at the end of the conversation. But Cooper says he and Rove never discussed welfare reform. Instead, he says, the entire conversation was about Plame.

Now, despite these alarming discrepancies, Bush continues to support both men. Mr. Speaker, our covert CIA agents needs President Bush to stand firm against these actions now.

CAFTA BENEFITS AMERICAN BUSINESSES

(Mr. SHAW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the United States-Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement.

The United States and our neighbors in Central America and the Dominican Republic enjoy a healthy trading relationship with over \$32.6 billion worth of goods traded between the United States and the six DR-CAFTA countries just last year. The agreement will not only increase exports and income for United States farmers, manufacturers and business, but it also will provide the United States with an opportunity to enhance the well-being of millions in Central America.

The DR-CAFTA countries are among the poorest in the world. According to the World Bank, the average person in